

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
May 6-7, 2009**

Resolution No. 44: National Fire Fighter of the Year Award

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of the objectives "...to maintain Law and Order" and fire fighting, as well as law enforcement, contributes to America's internal security; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always strived to be active and supportive in the local communities; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee at the Spring 1970 meetings adopted Resolution 13, "Certificate of Commendation for Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters," authorized the issuance of suitable Certificates of Commendations to outstanding fire fighters by posts and Departments; and

WHEREAS, At the proceedings of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion held on October 18-19, 1995 Resolution 24 "The National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" was adopted; and

WHEREAS, At the National Convention of The American Legion held on August 29-31, 2006 Resolution 101 "Department Fire Fighter of the Year Awards" was adopted and resolved to consider establishing a National Fire Fighter of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, A National Security staff survey reported that at least 30 Departments had a Fire Fighter of the Year Award and an additional 12 intended to institute the award; and

WHEREAS, The National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award is a fitting support and recognition of 'America's Finest' a National Fire Fighter of the Year Award would be a fitting recognition of 'America's Bravest'; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of both the Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission and the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2009, That The American Legion annually recognize a National Fire Fighter of the Year with an appropriate award which shall be presented at the National Conventions or other American Legion settings as deemed appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this annual award be named "The American Legion National Fire Fighter of the Year Award" and that monetary expenses shall not exceed the cost of the award and related travel expenses of the winning recipient; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Law and Order Committee be fully authorized to develop appropriate eligibility criteria, application procedures, and deadlines, and selection guidelines for Department submissions.